From: NORSKPOLE@aol.com@inetgw

**To:** Microsoft ATR **Date:** 12/11/01 11:58am

**Subject:** Argument to settle with Microsoft on present terms

The ability of American business to communicate digitally on a common platform, (Microsoft DOS, Windows, and Office) has been a major driving force in the huge gains made by American business over a little more than a decade. The anti-trust suit against Microsoft was based more upon trying to give competing companies an advantage, than it was about Microsoft's abuse of its patents and copyrights.

The states that are holding out from the settlement, are very clearly establishing that they wish to obtain special benefits for companies in their states, over and above the agreement reached between Microsoft and the other states. This process has not been handled fairly from the beginning, when a clearly prejudiced judge presided over the case, and subsequently, as states, such as my home state of California, have attempted to upset a very equitable settlment agreement.